

ROUTING

Top Secret 219

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Wednesday 26 July 1978

CG NIDC 78/173

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Wednesday, 26 July 1978

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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USSR: Schools Closed to Jews

//In an attempt to limit the potential loss of classified information that could result from increased Jewish emigration, the Soviets are reported to have been refusing admission of Jews to at least two prestigious institutions of higher learning. Such a move would demonstrate the long-term losses the USSR is willing to accept in order to preserve its concept of state security.//

//The two institutions now said to be denied to Jewish applicants are the Bauman Higher Technical School and the Moscow Physico-Technical Institute, the school that Anatoliy Shcharanskiy attended between 1966 and 1972. The Physico-Technical Institute is often referred to as the Soviet equivalent of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; it provides a continuous flow of highly qualified scientists and engineers to Soviet defense-related research and production facilities.//

//Under Soviet law, any information related to national defense is classified as a state secret.//

//In the early 1960s, more than 10 percent of the students entering the Physico-Technical Institute each year were Jewish. By the time Shcharanskiy graduated in 1972, no Jewish students were being admitted

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The placement of quotas on Jewish students has been a longstanding practice in the USSR, but this is the first time we have noted the complete exclusion of Jews from such schools.//

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[] //Closing these two well-known schools, and perhaps others, to Jewish applicants could deprive the Soviet defense industry of the services of some of the country's most promising and well-qualified students. In the long term, this practice could lead to increased emigration or public dissent by many Jewish students who might otherwise have become fully assimilated into the higher levels of Soviet society. []

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ISRAEL: Likud Economic Wrangling

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[] Industry and Commerce Minister Hurvitz yesterday withdrew his threat to resign following a compromise arranged by Prime Minister Begin that apparently provides for some of the budgetary cuts Hurvitz wants. Hurvitz' grievances reflect differences over economic policy among the factions of Begin's ruling Likud bloc.

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[] Hurvitz and many others in Likud regard the supplementary budget that was approved earlier this week on Finance Minister Ehrlich's recommendation as a politically dangerous throwback to unpopular Labor Party practices. Labor-led governments often tried to trade politically on deliberately understated budgets.

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[] Such budgets usually had to be enlarged later by passage of supplementary credits that in turn fueled Israel's spiraling inflation rate, which last year approached 40 percent. During the 1977 election campaign, Likud spokesmen made Labor's mismanagement of the economy a major issue and emphasized Likud's commitment to controlling the budget and reducing inflation.

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[] Hurvitz and many of his colleagues in Likud's small Laam faction want a smaller and more efficiently managed budget and a clear break with Labor's socialist economic outlook. Hurvitz resents the subordination of his portfolio to the overall budgetary guidelines established by Ehrlich for all cabinet posts dealing with economic matters. Hurvitz, when he withdrew his resignation, said that he intends to play a more active role in economic policymaking. []

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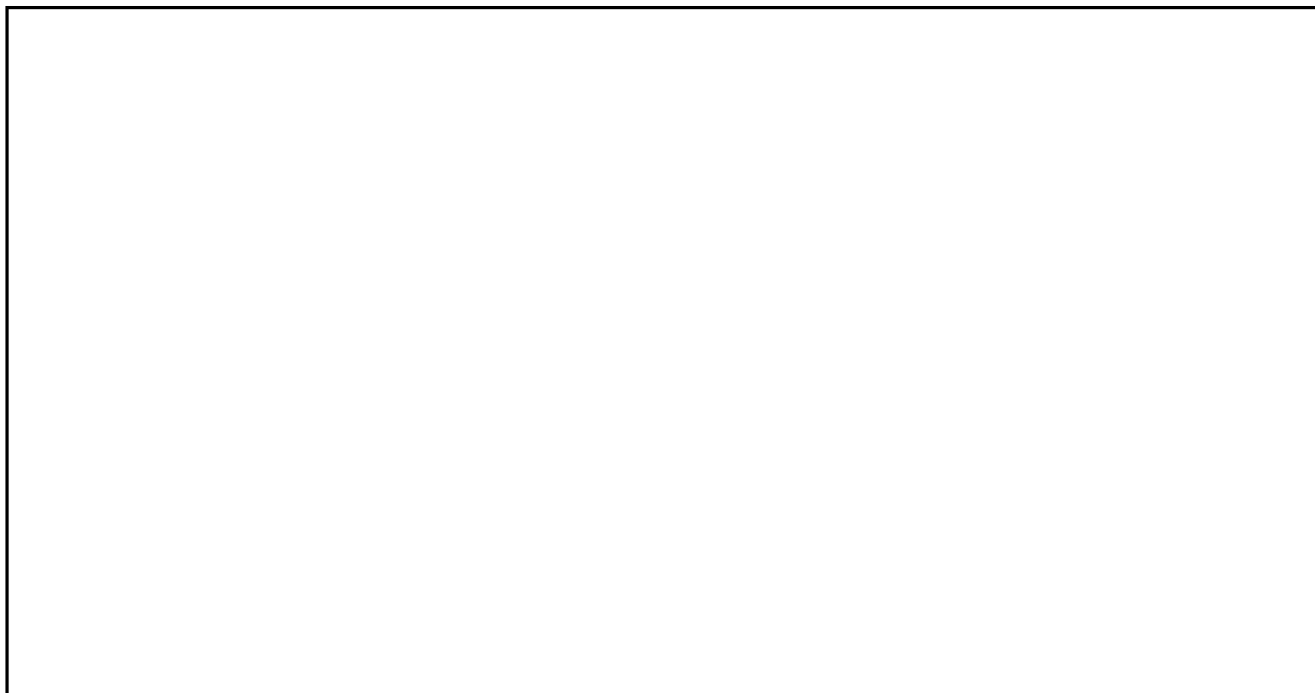
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BRIEFS

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Lebanon

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[REDACTED] Some intermittent fighting continued in the Christian suburb of Hadath, south of Beirut, yesterday. The Syrians shelled the town Monday night, and sporadic sniper and artillery fire took place during the day on Tuesday. Food supplies in Hadath are reported to be running out.

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[REDACTED] Press reports indicate that the Syrians have suffered numerous casualties in the fighting. Nonetheless, the cease-fire in Beirut is largely holding. [REDACTED]

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